

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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2 A cell switch node (20) has a first switch plane (22); a second switch plane (24);
3 a sender switch port interface unit (26_S); and a receiver switch port interface unit (26_R).
4 The sender switch port interface unit sends maintenance cells to the receiver switch port
5 interface unit via the first switch plane and the second switch plane. The maintenance
6 cells are applied to the first switch plane and the second switch plane in a predetermined
7 sequence. The receiver switch port interface unit detects an erroneous switch plane
8 when the maintenance cells from the sender switch port interface unit do not arrive in
9 the predetermined sequence.